



ELECTION NEWS

A special informational bulletin on the implementation of Michigan's new "consolidated elections" legislation

Michigan Department of State - Terri Lynn Land, Secretary of State

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In This Issue ...

- Election Date Calendars Available on Department's Website
- Polling Place Accessibility Grant Program Application Deadline Elapses on June 24
- City of Flint Commended!

Election Date Calendars Available on Department's Website

Date calendars prepared for the upcoming August 2 city primary, September 13 city primary, September 13 village election and the November 8 city general election can be accessed through the Department's website <www.michigan.gov/sos>. An election date calendar prepared for those jurisdictions that plan to conduct a special election on August 2 is also available on the website.

Polling Place Accessibility Grant Program Application Deadline Elapses on June 24

All city and township clerks are reminded that the Polling Place Accessibility Grant Program application deadline elapses on Friday, June 24, 2005.

On April 22, 2005, an informational packet on the grant program was mailed to those cities and townships that previously reported that they have at least one polling place that is not fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Eligible cities and townships that need to make accessibility improvements in buildings used as polling places can obtain financial assistance under the program to pay for the needed improvements. The grant program is funded through the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

At this date there are still a small number of jurisdictions that have not advised the Bureau on the accessibility status of their polling place locations. Every jurisdiction in the state is required to 1) certify that all of their polling place locations are fully compliant with the ADA accessibility standards or 2) notify the Bureau of those polling place locations that are not compliant with the ADA accessibility standards. A Polling Place Accessibility Checklist must be submitted for each polling place location which does not meet the ADA accessibility standards. If you wish to verify that your jurisdiction has satisfied the polling place accessibility reporting requirement, please feel free to contact the Bureau (contact information provided below).

It merits emphasis that all buildings used as polling places must be fully compliant with the ADA accessibility standards. There are no exceptions. If a building used as a polling place cannot be brought into compliance with the ADA standards, another polling place location must be secured.

Information on the Polling Place Accessibility Program can be accessed through the Department of State's website <www.michigan.gov/sos>. Questions regarding the polling place accessibility requirements or the grant program can be directed to Amy Shell of the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections:

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City of Flint Commended!

Commendations are extended to the City of Flint for organizing a full evaluation of its polling place locations during the conduct of the May 3 election. The city partnered with the Disability Network of Flint to complete the evaluations. By evaluating the accessibility of the polling place locations under actual election-day conditions, those participating were able to offer many useful observations and suggestions on needed accessibility improvements.